

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

*Media Office
Democratic Caucus
John Schorg, Director
Statehouse, Room 157
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

HOUSE PASSES MAHERN'S LEGISLATION ON SEIZING WEAPONS FROM A DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL

INDIANAPOLIS – Today legislation co-authored by State Rep. Ed Mahern (D-Indianapolis) on seizing weapons from a dangerous individual was passed out of the House on a 100-0 vote.

Under Mahern's legislation, weapons could be seized from individuals believed to be mentally ill. The weapons could then be retained by law enforcement for up to 45 days. The bill would also permit courts to issue search warrants for dangerous individuals who are believed to possess a dangerous weapon.

House Bill 1776 was offered in response to the tragic shooting on the south side of Indianapolis last August that left four officers wounded and both Officer Timothy "Jake" Laird and the shooter's mother dead. Kenneth Anderson, the man charged with the shootings, had a history of mental health problems.

"The deaths of Officer Laird and the shooter's mother were very tragic events that should never have happened," said Mahern. "Giving officers the ability to seize weapons from individuals they believe to be mentally ill will hopefully prevent a devastating instance like this from never happen again."

Mahern's legislation will now be sent to the Indiana Senate for consideration.